

Assembly Joint Resolution

No. 14

Introduced by Assembly Member Atkins

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February 27, 2013

Assembly Joint Resolution No. 14—Relative to sequestration.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 14, as amended, Atkins. Sequestration.

This measure would request the Congress of the United States to, among other things, act immediately to avert federal spending cuts known as “sequestration” to protect the California and national economies.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Without congressional action, a series of onerous
- 2 across-the-board cuts called “sequestration” will severely
- 3 compromise the nation’s and California’s emerging economic
- 4 recovery and negatively impact California’s workers, families,
- 5 and communities; and

1 WHEREAS, Through sequestration California will see a
2 reduction in education funding of approximately \$87.6 million,
3 putting nearly 2,000 primary and secondary education teacher and
4 aide classroom positions at risk, including those of 760 teachers,
5 aides, and staff who help children with disabilities; and

6 WHEREAS, California's extensive military defense industry
7 will be devastated with the loss of approximately 64,000 civilian
8 Department of Defense jobs, and operational reductions by the
9 Army, Air Force, and Navy totaling more than \$69 million; and

10 WHEREAS, Studies show that California will lose 336,000
11 defense-related jobs across the state and more than \$21 billion in
12 economic output if the \$4 billion in additional sequestration cuts
13 are imposed on the state; and

14 WHEREAS, The nation's returning veterans will experience a
15 reduction in the federal Transition Assistance Program, which
16 serves more than 150,000 veterans, leaving thousands of
17 transitioning veterans unserved as they move from active duty to
18 civilian life; and

19 WHEREAS, The Secretary of the Department of Homeland
20 Security warns that the automatic budget reduction mandated by
21 sequestration would be disruptive and destructive to our nation's
22 security and economy by effectively closing many of California's
23 ports and border crossings during daily peak activity due to the
24 reduction in customs and border protection officers; and

25 WHEREAS, The Federal Aviation Administration would be hit
26 with a \$600-million cut, forcing a reduction in core functions
27 leading to furloughs of one to two days for most of its 47,000
28 employees, resulting in slower air traffic in California's major
29 cities and delays and disruptions across the country during the
30 critical summer travel season; and

31 WHEREAS, The specter of losing up to 2,100 food inspectors
32 as a result of sequester cuts could lead to increased outbreaks of
33 food-borne illness, presenting a serious threat to the public and
34 putting families at risk and costing billions in lost food production;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, The sequester cuts will result in significant negative
37 impacts to public health and safety, including losing access to child
38 care for disadvantaged and vulnerable children, which is essential
39 for working parents, more than 15,000 children in California not
40 receiving vaccines for diseases such as measles, mumps, rubella,

1 and tetanus, and California's ability to respond to the outbreak of
2 public health threats such as infectious diseases, natural disasters,
3 and biological, chemical, nuclear, and radiological events will be
4 diminished; and

5 WHEREAS, A long-term, bipartisan compromise that averts
6 sequestration will protect the California and national economies
7 and provide a balanced and thoughtful budget solution; now,
8 therefore, be it

9 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*
10 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature urges the Congress of the
11 United States to avert federal spending cuts known as
12 "sequestration" to protect the California and national economies;
13 and be it further

14 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California urges
15 the Congress of the United States to act immediately to avert the
16 economic crisis that would result from the onerous across-the-board
17 federal spending cuts in education and public health and safety,
18 which will prevent the job losses and threats to our security that
19 would result from cuts to our national defense and honor and secure
20 the welfare of the veterans' programs serving the men and women
21 who defend our county; and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Legislature of the of the State of California
23 urges the Congress of the United States to pursue a balanced
24 approach in seeking to close wasteful tax loopholes to protect the
25 investments that are helping grow our economy and keep our state
26 and nation safe; and be in further

27 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
28 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United
29 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the
30 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and
31 Representative from California in the Congress of the United
32 States.